

REMARKS

The present response accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

Claims 1-23 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 12, 15, 18-20 and 23 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments may be found throughout the specification, such as ¶¶ [0054] – [0057], for example. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-23 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-16 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/820,666, which is assigned to the assignee of the present application. A Terminal Disclaimer is being submitted herewith, thereby obviating the obviousness-type double patenting rejection with respect to claims 1-23.

Claims 1-23 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,120,250 (“Candelore”).

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the time and attention afforded by Examiner Shiferaw during a telephonic interview on March 5, 2007. During the interview, Applicants’ representative distinguished the claimed invention from the cited reference. More specifically, Applicants’ representative noted that the cited reference does not disclose a source trust authority (SOTA) that decrypts content from a source and translates policy associated with the content from a native format into a format amenable to a policy engine, and a sink trust authority (SITA) that encrypts content to be delivered to a sink and translates the policy associated with the content from the format of the policy engine into a format amenable to the sink, whereby the sink receives the content and corresponding policy, decrypts the received content, and renders same based on the received policy. Examiner Shiferaw suggested possible claim amendments for further clarifying the claimed invention. Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s careful consideration of the present application and have amended the independent claims accordingly.

As amended, independent claims 1 and 12 recite, in part, a source trust authority (SOTA) corresponding to a source of content, the SOTA decrypting the content from the source, translating policy associated with the content from a native format of the source into a format amenable to the policy engine, propagating the translated policy to the policy engine, and releasing the decrypted content to the media base; and a sink trust authority (SITA)

corresponding to a sink of content, the SITA re-encrypting the decrypted content released by the SOTA, receiving the translated policy from the policy engine, and re-translating the translated policy from the format of the policy engine into a format amenable to the sink, whereby the re-encrypted content and the re-translated policy are delivered to the sink, and whereby the sink receives the re-encrypted content and the re-translated policy, decrypts the received content, and renders same based on the received policy. Thus, embodiments of the claimed invention define a protected media path that enables content from any of a plurality of systems to be delivered to any of a plurality of destinations (*Specification* at ¶ [0013]).

By contrast, Candelore discloses a system that enables a digital content provider to supply content to customers under multiple digital rights management (DRM) schemes (Candelore at col. 8, ll. 64-67). More specifically, as shown in FIGs. 2 and 6, selected portions of a content file stored in a content database 130 of a digital content provider 104 are duplicated and encrypted under multiple encryption schemes (e.g., DRM A and DRM B) (*id.* at col. 4, ll. 58-61; col. 5, ll. 9-12). The content file may then be downloaded or streamed to a customer's computer (*id.* at col. 7, ll. 45-47).

The software on the customer's computer may determine whether the digital rights acquired by the customer are valid and decrypt the file according to the DRM scheme being used for playback, which depends upon the playback software and/or playback machine (*id.* at col. 7, ll. 47-60). As noted in Candelore, “[i]n order to enable two or more DRMs to work side-by-side . . . [t]he media player **should allow selection of either DRM**” (*id.* at col. 6, ll. 18-22) (emphasis added). That is, in contrast to the claimed invention, the customer in Candelore will not be able to playback or access content from the content provider 104 unless at least one of the encrypted content portions of the file (i.e., DRM A or DRM B) is supported by the customer's software. Thus, the content distribution system in Candelore does not translate and re-translate policies associated with content, or decrypt and re-encrypt content, as the content is distributed from the digital content provider 104 to the content customer because such steps are unnecessary when the policy formats and DRM schemes of the content provider and the content customer are compatible with one another.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Candelore does not disclose, teach, or suggest a SOTA and a SITA, as recited in claims 1 and 12, and respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-2867/306926.2
Application No.: 10/820,673
Office Action Dated: November 21, 2006

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 12 patentably define over the cited reference and are, therefore, allowable. As claims 2-11 depend from claim 1, and claims 13-23 depend from claim 12, Applicants further submit that the dependent claims are likewise allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration of the present application and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Bryan T. Giles at (215) 564-8954, to discuss the resolution of any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



Bryan T. Giles
Registration No. 60,078

Date: March 21, 2007

Woodcock Washburn LLP
Cira Centre
2929 Arch Street, 12th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2891
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439